

U.S. Customs and Border Protection Modernization

October 2004 Monthly Newsletter

ACE Truck Manifest Coming to First Port

An electronic truck manifest capability is coming soon to U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP). A pilot of the latest Automated Commercial Environment (ACE) feature is set to begin in Blaine, Washington in December. Training is scheduled to begin next month.

"The automated truck manifest feature is where the rubber meets the road in the ACE program," said newly appointed CBPMO Executive Director Louis Samenfink. "We enhance our information gathering and analysis abilities with the electronic manifest information, and increase sharing of information with our first PGA, the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA). This represents a major advance in our efforts to combat terrorism and will eventually speed the process for legitimate trade."

The Blaine launch of e-Manifest: Trucks represents the first time ACE will be implemented on a port-wide basis. With FMCSA and Department of Transportation participation, it also represents the first time a federal agency outside

of CBP will be able to use ACE to provide and obtain information.

The next six ports to receive ACE will be: Buffalo, New York (January 2005); Detroit and Port Huron, Michigan (March 2005); Champlain, New York (mid-March 2005); Laredo, Texas (April 2005); and Otay Mesa, California (mid-April, 2005). Additional ports will be launched on a port-by-port basis.

A Federal Register Notice (FRN) was published September 13, 2004, to announce the e-Manifest: Trucks pilot. Potential ACE participants may E-mail ACENow@dhs.gov for more information on how to establish an ACE account. Currently, there are over 200 importer and broker accounts.

New Leadership Named for CBP Modernization

The CBPMO top executive spot and other key modernization positions were filled earlier this month. Twenty-six-year CBP veteran Louis Samenfink was named to the open CBPMO Executive Director position effective October 4, 2004. Samenfink served CBP most recently as Deputy Executive

ACE on the Road

October 14: National Council on International Trade Development, Washington, D.C.

October 13-17: Western Cargo Conference, San Diego, Calif.

October 20: Dulles Customs Brokers Association, Chantilly, Va.

October 24-28: National Association of Foreign Trade Zones Annual Conference, Hilton Head, S.C.

October 26-28: Autolog Conference, Dearborn, Mich.

Director for Trade Compliance and Facilitation in the Office of Field Operations (OFO).

"Lou Samenfink is known for his strong background in cargo operations, interaction with the international trade community, and work with CBP automated systems," said Acting Assistant Commissioner, Office of



New CBPMO Executive Director
Louis Samenfink (above)

Information and Technology, Rod MacDonald. Samenfink will also be assuming the responsibilities of the CBPMO Business Executive, which have been merged with the director's responsibilities.

"Now that ACE, the first key initiative of CBPMO, is being implemented on a more widespread basis, it is important to ensure the integration of CBP modernization with field operations," said MacDonald. He said, "This integration promotes a seamless coordination of modernization and field operations efforts by interchanging the expertise of key executives in both offices."

Lawrence J. Rosenzweig, who has served as the CBPMO Business Executive for over two years, will be moving to OFO to assume the position formerly held by Samenfink. "Having Larry in OFO will be a huge asset as we move forward with ACE," said MacDonald.

The top CBPMO position became open after the November 2003 detail of former CBPMO Executive Director Charles R. Armstrong to Acting Assistant Commissioner, OIT. Armstrong has since been detailed to the newly created Acting Chief Information Officer position at the Border and Transportation Security directorate in the Department of Homeland Security.

Sharon A. Mazur, who has been serving as the acting CBPMO Executive Director since November 2003, will return to her permanent position as Deputy Executive Director. MacDonald said, "Sharon has done a tremendous job directing the ACE program over the past year. We are very pleased to have such a strong "one-two" combination in CBPMO."

In other personnel news, effective September 20, OIT Planning Group Director Guy D. Taylor assumed additional duties as Acquisition Director, CBPMO Program Control, replacing Debbie L. Flickinger, who has accepted a management position in the Office of Finance. MacDonald said, "Guy brings a wealth of experience with investment management, strategic planning, and process improvement into this new role."



ACE Ambassador Spotlight

A passionate commitment to law enforcement was what led Richard Villarreal to leave a career in the television industry to join CBP. This son of a Drug Enforcement Agency agent is now a CBP Senior Officer at the Brownsville, Texas Port of Entry, where he applies his expertise in cargo security as a Customs-Trade Partnership Against Terrorism (C-TPAT) coordinator. Villarreal works in the cargo lot, where cargo manufactured in foreign countries is inspected.

"We inspect everything from piñatas to radios," said Villarreal, a Corpus Christi native. He has traveled all over Mexico as part of America's Counter Smuggling Initiative team. The team conducts site surveys and training at trucking and manufacturing facilities in foreign countries.

"We are diligently educating people at those facilities to ensure stringent procedures are being followed, eliminating opportunities for terrorists and smugglers to gain access to the supply chain," said Villarreal. "At one place I visited, thieves were removing hinges to get into trucks without breaking seals on the other side of the doors."

Villarreal has also worked on the carrier initiative program as a coordinator to help elicit cooperation from carriers to improve security at foreign and domestic locations.

He said he is excited to see the trade community so unified in the fight against terrorism and to serve as an ACE Ambassador. "Through ACE, lines of communication are opening, providing real-time information and creating a more efficient and accurate cargo process," said Villarreal.